

only white on the apical part of the first primary and birds having a black bar half an inch wide near its extremity. The non-existence of the so-called subspecies *L. a. smithsonianus* seems to be completely demonstrated. At the same time I had the opportunity of examining a large number of Kittiwake Gulls and found a greater variation in their primaries than in those of the Herring Gull. In both cases specimens examined for comparative purposes were adult birds. — ORA W. KNIGHT, *Bangor, Me.*

The Occurrence of the Egyptian Goose in North America.—It gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of the American Ornithologists' Union a specimen of the Egyptian Goose (*Chenalopex aegyptiacus*) shot on Dec. 5, 1898, at Havre de Grace, Md. I received the bird in the flesh on the 10th, through the kindness of Walter T. Jackson of that place, who sent the following note with it:—"Shot by John Simpers along shore 100 yards from Point Concord Light, Havre de Grace, Md. Two other birds of same species were seen the following day."

A few days later I visited Havre de Grace; John Simper was off on the 'flats,' but everyone in that duck shooting town knew of the strange bird, so I had no difficulty in hearing of it. I visited the scene of the shooting, which was a small indentation in the shore, with considerable growth in it, and a marshy piece of ground at its head; here the bird was seen early in the morning, and John Simper went for his gun, came back and shot it. With regard to the two reported as seen next day, I heard several contradictory stories, and question the identity of the birds seen.

The bird shot was in perfect plumage, and showed no signs of having ever been in confinement; the body, however, was emaciated to the last degree, and the stomach contained only two or three small gravel stones; the bird was evidently in the last stages of starvation, which would account for the remarkable tameness freely commented on at Havre de Grace.

As far as I know the only other record for this species in North America, is of one taken at Canarsie, L. I., on Jan. 3, 1877, and recorded by John Akhurst of Brooklyn, N. Y., in the Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. II. April, 1877, p. 52. Mr. Geo. N. Lawrence, in a letter to Mr. Akhurst, stated in regard to this specimen: "Its acquisition is worthy of being noted, and whether a straggler or an escaped specimen may be ascertained in the future." Apparently this statement governed Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway in their note on the species (*Water birds*, p. 434), where they say "a common species in aviaries; so that it is altogether probable that the example in question [the Canarsie bird] was one escaped from confinement." Bechm's *Thierleben* (*Birds*, Vol. III, 1882, p. 471), in commenting on the occurrence of this species in various European countries, says practically the same thing, but the species is generally included as a valid one in the countries where it has been taken in a state of nature.

As the species is a great wanderer I can see no reason why one or more should not occasionally cross the Atlantic. The condition in which this specimen was received certainly proved it to have been a long time without food, and being a fresh water feeder, the only way it could have reached Maryland without finding a suitable feeding place would have to be across the Atlantic. If stronger evidence cannot be brought forward against it, I see no reason why this beautiful species should not be added to the North American Fauna. — F. C. KIRKWOOD, *Baltimore, Md.*

The Occurrence of Steller's Eider (*Enicouetta stelleri*) in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. — We are indebted to Mr. Napoleon A. Comeau, who has done so much to increase our knowledge of the distribution of birds in the Point des Monts region of Quebec, for two records of the occurrence of Steller's Eider in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The first specimen which he secured was a female taken on February 17, 1898, at Godbout, where it was associated with a flock of Old-squaws. The second example was a fine male, which was killed by Joseph Morin, a seal hunter, about a month later near Point des Monts. It was found among a flock of Goldeneyes. Previous to the capture of these two specimens Mr. Comeau had seen occasional individuals among flocks of well known species, which he did not recognize and had wondered if they might not be Labrador Ducks. After examining the male Steller's Eider, however, he appreciated that the birds formally observed undoubtedly belonged to the latter species.

These records are especially interesting as coming from the eastern side of the continent where the bird appears to be of accidental occurrence, and where, as far as known, it has been observed only at Disco Bay, Greenland, and Cumberland Sound. — A. K. FISHER, *Washington, D. C.*

Pipile vs. Pipilo. — If mere difference in inflexional termination of words otherwise identical in form be held insufficient for their discrimination, then *Pipile* Bp., *Comptes Rendus*, XLII, 1856, p. 877, is voided by *Pipilo* Vieill., *Anal.*, 1816, p. 32, and the three current species of the former genus may be called *Cumana* (gen. nov.) *cumanensis* (Jacq., 1784), or *C. pipile* (Jacq., 1784), *C. jacutinga* (Spix, 1825), and *C. cujubi* (v. Pelz., 1858). But it may be a question whether *Pipile* and *Pipilo* are not radically distinct words. Vieillot's name is good Latin, being first person, singular, present indicative of a verb meaning 'to chirp'; while Bonaparte's may be a barbarous word of South American origin. If the latter shall so prove, how shall we dispose of the case? — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

Strix vs. Aluco. — This is a case on which the last word does not appear to have been said, and I, for one, should be glad to have it settled. It involves not only two generic, but also two family names. If I am at